



# Around the Grounds

## Slaveski's Royal Party but no Wedding yet

**B**ankstown City Lions left-sided midfielder Daniel Slaveski had a small party on the same day the Royals were marrying in the UK but this was to celebrate his 23rd birthday on the eve of his team's impending match with Sutherland Sharks at Seymour Shaw Park. Although wedding plans are on the horizon he stated to Football NSW, "No I didn't get married that same day but I do have a beautiful girlfriend and we are getting engaged at the end of the year so maybe in a couple of years time," he smiles. It wouldn't be prudent to mention this if she didn't know of course but as Daniel continues: "We've been talking about it for a while now so Natalie knows and it's safe to print that," he laughs this time. Being a NSW Premier League regular and having skirted the fringes of the A-League it is evident the lad has the passion in the belly to want to press on with his career but it hasn't gone to his head as his feet remain firmly on the ground. "To be honest I am just concentrating on game by game but of course I would love to play in the A-League though but I just want to keep playing until the end of the year and then recap what has happened and take it step by step from there." Slaveski bears the marks still when on the wrong end of quite a horrific accidental knock in a match recently that may have left less focused players with a battered confidence issue yet that is something he has turned into a positive. "I've actually used the incident to gain in confidence, it's made me hungrier. "It was a pretty bad knock against Bonnyrigg yet it is part and parcel of the game and you have to accept that. "It was deliberate but it has made me want to play harder and even more determined to be the player I want to become and achieve everything I can from the game." Daniel has, quite obviously, been lumbered with the 'young' tag throughout his career to date and never really as 'Daniel Slaveski' in his own right but is it something that worry's him? "Yes and no," he says: "It is nice to be young but like I said I am 23-years old now so I suppose we can drop the word 'young' from now on," he smirks at this one; "But if I can continue to play good football I don't suppose I'll care what you call me Brockie," now laughing hard! Back to matters more serious and for Bankstown this season it hasn't been easy but they are still up there mixing at the top and their aspirations for 2011 are quite clear. "We started from scratch coming into the season and personally I think we are doing quite well (2-wins, 3-losses and a draw), but hopefully we can put it together this season and keep in the hunt and push higher up the ladder. "The team morale is good as we have around 17-funny guys running around the training pitch and the reason we have done as well as we have so far is the fact that we are all basically out there for one another, we train together and many of us go out together so there is always plenty of banter and laughs to be had and we are very close. Slaveski has glowing words for coach Blagoja Kuleski, himself at Bankstown for his first season, when saying. "It's his first year at the club and my first year under him and it's a shame I haven't been under his guidance for a couple more years. "He is great, gets along with the boys well, has a laugh and a joke but when it comes down to business everyone plays for him." As a personal trainer Slaveski doesn't just train as a part time professional player and puts in plenty of solo hard yards, something all players need to do if they are to achieve their personal goals and to become the player they want to be so that in time maybe we will see the lad donning an A-League shirt. Who knows? His work ethic cannot be faulted but it is a long way to the top however one or two things can be said for sure and certain and that is the 'young' tag can be dropped and, of course, I am quite partial to a slice or two of wedding cake chaps.

-By Micky Brock

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## State League Two Round 10 Preview

**I**t's round 10 already in State League 2 and Chopin Park Rams travel to Bensons Lane Field on Saturday evening (5pm) to take on the mighty Hawkesbury City. The two sides are grouped near enough to each other on the table to offer up a tight contest but City will probably receive extra motivation from its home fans who are yet to see them taste victory in three tries at Bensons Lane this year. Chopin Park and Hawkesbury both boast pretty good defences and this will be a great tactical battle between coaches Radek Czerwinski and Gary Lewis. Northbridge can look forward to a great game of football against Hurstville City Minotaurs at Valentine Sports Park on Saturday night (7pm). The newcomers have the jump on last year's division two powerhouse but Hurstville have a game up their sleeve that could come in handy later on. Northbridge has more than showed it has what it takes to compete in state league. They are unbeaten as hosts this year, while Hurstville have a respectable win and draw from its four road games. The Minotaurs will be hungry for the points, so this should be a beauty. Bathurst '75 meet Belmore Hercules under lights at Alec Lamberton Field on Saturday night (7pm) in what has the makings for a close contest. Belmore will be buoyed by its 2-2 draw with Hakoah on the weekend in which it led twice and had a potential match-winner disallowed. They face a talented Bathurst outfit that has lost three of its six home matches this season. Bathurst held on for a close 2-1 win over Belmore at Alec Lamberton last year after a 1-1 draw earlier in the season, so there's nothing between them historically either. A similar goal difference and desperation for points should make this an interesting spectacle. Highflying Roosters FC face-off with top-five side Prospect United in a fire-and-brimstone clash at Hills Sports High on Sunday afternoon (3pm). Both sides have begun 2011 at a blistering pace yet behind quite contrasting results. Roosters have scored a quick-fire 24 goals in eight games (second best in the league), beating Gazy in its last outing 8-1, while Prospect have built a brick wall around the reservoir, leaking just four goals in seven games to boast the best defensive record and then some (Chopin Park next best with nine). United are riding a four-game winning streak over Roosters... but the margin has only ever been one goal. Gazy Lansvale can turn their woes around when they meet Hakoah FC at Cherrybrook Park on Sunday afternoon (3pm). Gazy are tip-toeing on the precipice as they try to get their shaky 2011 campaign going again after seven consecutive losses. They have conceded 30 goals in those defeats so it's not hard to see where Lansvale need to do the most work. Unfortunately

ly for them, Hakoah won't let them treat this game as a training run and can rejoin the top-five with a good result on Sunday. Gazy thrashed Hakoah 5-1 at Cherrybrook last year after being embarrassed by the eventual wooden-spooners 5-0 at Wentworth Park earlier in the season. Fairfield Wanderers welcome Springwood United to Knight Park on Sunday afternoon (3pm) in a match with plenty on offer for both sides. Wanderers are second behind Luddenham on the ladder and have already collected the most home points of any home team to make Knight Park a daunting prospect for any visitors. To make it worse for Springwood, they haven't won on the road this year, but they can help improve their mid-table position with a good showing at Fairfield. Wanderers have the edge historically having won two of the last three encounters with Springwood, followed by a 0-0 draw last August. League leaders Luddenham United and new boys Nepean square up in a battle for Sydney's fringe at Luddenham Oval on Sunday afternoon (3pm). Luddenham are in irrepressible form having won six of its campaign games (including the last four straight) to sit a point ahead of Wanderers. They have scored a healthy 21 goals, however, they have also leaked 16 goals in the eight outings. Whatever the numbers, Nepean will need to lift its own game in front of goal, they have the league's worst offensive output of seven goals, remarkably to seven different players. But they are improving and should prove more than a handful for United. Round 2 of the Waratah Cup knockout also starts this week with a record seven division two clubs still in the running. On Wednesday night (May 4), Hawkesbury City hosts Northern Beaches association team Collaroy Cromer at Bensons Lane Field (6.30pm kickoff), Bathurst '75 faces State League 1 strugglers Schofields Scorpions at Penrith's CSI Sports Ground (7.15pm), Gazy Lansvale meets classy Illawarra Premier League side Picton Rangers at Cherrybrook Park (7.15pm), and Chopin Park Rams tackle Gladesville-Hornsby association representatives Eastwood-St Andrews at Bensons Lane Field (8.15pm). Hakoah welcomes Illawarra Premier League heavyweight Dandaloo FC to Hensley Athletic Field on Thursday night, May 5 (7.15pm kickoff), and two more round-two games featuring division two outfits are scheduled for next week (Wednesday, May 11), Northbridge FC battling fellow northern districts club, Super League leaders Spirit FC in a Christie Park blockbuster (7.15pm), while Fairfield Wanderers also meet a northern traveller in unbeaten Super League outfit Northern Tigers at Knight Park (7.15pm).

-By Daniel De Nardi